



Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

“Mice” The MATLAB[®] Interface to CSPICE

October 2022



Topics

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Mice Benefits**
- **How does it work?**
- **Distribution**
- **Mice Operation**
- **Vectorization**
- **Simple Mice Examples**



Mice Benefits

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- Mice operates as an extension to the MATLAB environment.
- All Mice calls are functions regardless of the call format of the underlying CSPICE routine, returning MATLAB native data types.
- Mice has some capability not available in CSPICE such as vectorization.
- CSPICE error messages return to MATLAB in the form usable by the *try...catch* construct.



How Does It Work? (1)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **The MATLAB environment includes an intrinsic capability to use external routines.**
 - **Mice functions as a MATLAB executable, MEX, consisting of the Mice MEX shared object library and a set of .m wrapper files.**
 - » **The Mice library contains the MATLAB callable C interface routines that wrap a subset of CSPICE wrapper calls.**
 - » **The wrapper files, named `cspice_*.m` and `mice_*.m`, provide the MATLAB calls to the interface functions.**
 - » **A function prefixed with ‘`cspice_`’ retains essentially the same argument list as the CSPICE counterpart.**
 - » **An interface prefixed with ‘`mice_`’ returns a structure, with the fields of the structure corresponding to the output arguments of the CSPICE counterpart.**
 - » **The wrappers include a header section describing the function call, displayable by the MATLAB *help* command.**



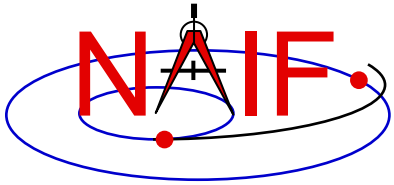
How Does It Work? (2)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

When a user invokes a call to a Mice function:

- 1. MATLAB calls...**
- 2. the function's wrapper, which calls...**
- 3. the Mice MEX shared object library, which performs its function then returns the result...**
- 4. to the wrapper, which...**
- 5. returns the result to the user**

... transparent from the user's perspective.



Mice Distribution

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **NAIF distributes Mice as a complete, standalone package.**
- **The package includes:**
 - the CSPICE source files
 - the Mice interface source code
 - platform specific build scripts for Mice and CSPICE
 - MATLAB versions of the SPICE cookbook programs, *states*, *tictoc*, *subpt*, and *simple*
 - an HTML-based help system for both Mice and CSPICE, with the Mice help cross-linked to CSPICE
 - the Mice MEX shared library and the M wrapper files. The system is ready for use after installation of the library and wrapper files.
- **You do not need a C compiler to use Mice.**



Mice Operation (1)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **A possible irritant exists in loading kernels using the `cspice_furnsh` function.**
 - **Kernels load into your MATLAB session, not into your MATLAB scripts. This means:**
 - » loaded binary kernels remain accessible (“active”) throughout your MATLAB session
 - » data from loaded text kernels remain in the kernel pool (in the memory space used by CSPICE) throughout your MATLAB session
 - **Consequence: some kernel data may be available to one of your scripts even though not intended to be so.**
 - » You could get **incorrect results!**
 - » If you run only one script during your MATLAB session, there’s no problem.

continued on next page



Mice Operation (2)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Mitigation: two approaches**
 - **Load all needed SPICE kernels for your MATLAB session at the beginning of the session, paying careful attention to the files loaded and the loading order (loading order affects precedence)**
 - » **Convince yourself that this approach will provide ALL of the scripts you will run during this MATLAB session with the appropriate SPICE data**
 - **At or near the end of every MATLAB script:**
 - » **include a call to `cspice_unload` for each kernel loaded using `cspice_furnsh`**
 - » **or include a call to `cspice_kclear` to remove ALL kernel data from the kernel pool loaded using `cspice_furnsh`**



Mice Vectorization (1)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Most Mice functions include use of vectorized arguments, a capability not available in C or Fortran toolkits.**
- **Example: use Mice to retrieve state vectors and light-time values for 1000 ephemeris times.**
 - **Create an array of 1000 ephemeris times with a step size of 10 hours, starting from July 1, 2005:**

```
start = cspice_str2et('July 1 2005');  
et     = (0:999)*36000 + start;
```

- **Retrieve the state vectors and corresponding light times from Mars to earth at each `et` in the J2000 frame with LT+S aberration correction:**

```
[state, ltime] = cspice_spkezr( 'Earth', et, 'J2000', 'LT+S', 'MARS');  
or  
starg = mice_spkezr( 'Earth', et, 'J2000', 'LT+S', 'MARS');
```

continued on next page



Mice Vectorization (2)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- Access the *ith* state 6-vector (6x1 array) corresponding to the *ith* ephemeris time with the expression

```
state_i = state(:,i)
```

or

```
state_i = starg(i).state
```

- Convert the ephemeris time vector `et` from the previous example to UTC calendar strings with three decimal places of precision in the seconds field.

```
format = 'C';
```

```
prec    = 3;
```

```
utcstr = cspice_et2utc( et, format, prec );
```

- The call returns `utcstr`, an array of 1000 strings (dimensioned 1000x24), where each *ith* string is the calendar date corresponding to `et(i)`.

continued on next page



Mice Vectorization (3)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- Access the *ith* string of `utcstr` corresponding to the *ith* ephemeris time with the expression

```
utcstr_i = utcstr(i,:)
```

- Convert the position components (the first three components in a state vector) of the *N* state vectors returned in `state` by the `cspice_spkezr` function to latitudinal coordinates.

```
[radius, latitude, longitude] = cspice_reclat( state(1:3,:) );
```

- The call returns three double precision 1x1000 arrays (vectorized scalars): `radius`, `latitude`, `longitude`.



Simple Mice Example (1)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **As an example of using Mice, calculate and plot the trajectory of the Cassini spacecraft, in the J2000 inertial frame, from June 20 2004 to December 1 2005. This example uses the `cspice_spkpos` function to retrieve position data.**

```
% Construct a meta kernel, "standard.tm", which will be used to load the needed
% generic kernels: "naif0011.tls," "de421.bsp," and "pck00010.tpc."

% Load the generic kernels using the meta kernel, and a Cassini spk.

cspice_furnsh( { 'standard.tm', '/kernels/cassini/spk/030201AP SK SM546 T45.bsp' } )

% Define the number of divisions of the time interval.
STEP      = 1000;
et        = cspice_str2et( {'Jun 20, 2004', 'Dec 1, 2005'} );
times     = (0:STEP-1) * ( et(2) - et(1) )/STEP + et(1);

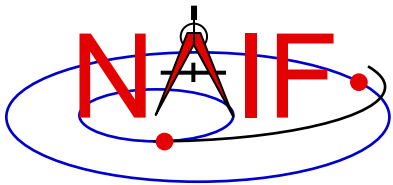
[pos,ltime]= cspice_spkpos( 'Cassini', times, 'J2000', 'NONE', 'SATURN BARYCENTER' );

% Plot the resulting trajectory.
x = pos(1,:);
y = pos(2,:);
z = pos(3,:);

plot3(x,y,z)

cspice_kclear
```

continued on next page



Simple Mice Example (2)

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- Repeat the example of the previous page, except use the `mice_spkezr` function to retrieve full state vectors.

```
% Define the number of divisions of the time interval.
STEP = 1000;

% Construct a meta kernel, "standard.tm", which will be used to load the needed
% generic kernels: "naif0009.tls," "de421.bsp," and "pck00009.tpc."

% Load the generic kernels using the meta kernel, and a Cassini spk.

cspice_furnsh( { 'standard.tm', '/kernels/cassini/spk/030201AP SK SM546 T45.bsp' } )

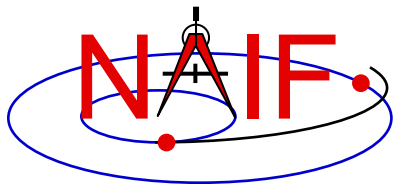
et    = cspice_str2et( {'Jun 20, 2004', 'Dec 1, 2005'} );
times = (0:STEP-1) * ( et(2) - et(1) )/STEP + et(1);

ptarg = mice_spkpos( 'Cassini', times, 'J2000', 'NONE', 'SATURN BARYCENTER' );
pos    = [ptarg.pos];

% Plot the resulting trajectory.
x = pos(1,:);
y = pos(2,:);
z = pos(3,:);

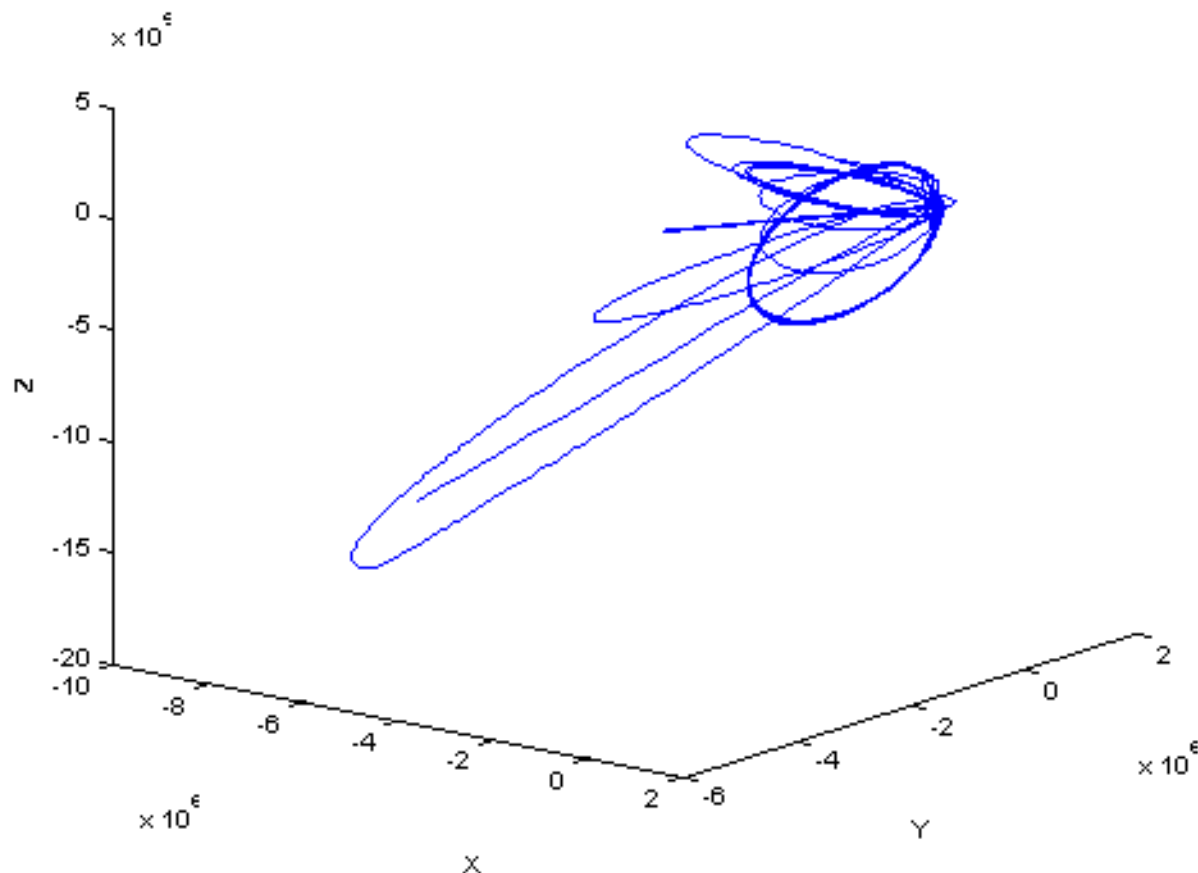
plot3(x,y,z)

cspice_kclear
```



Mice Example Graphic Output

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



Trajectory of the Cassini spacecraft, in the J2000 frame, from June 20 2004 to Dec 1 2005